

## **Public Notice – Environmental Project**

### **PURPOSE OF NOTICE:**

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed project in Virginia coastal waters.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

July 30, 2013 to August 13, 2013

### **TYPE OF RESPONSE:**

Federal Consistency Determination

DEQ is reviewing a proposed federal activity to determine if it is consistent with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCP) established pursuant to the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The VCP seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

### **NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:**

DOC/NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to implement Amendment 17 to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squids, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP); Amendment 4 to the Atlantic Bluefish FMP; and Amendment 19 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP to Implement Recreational Accountability Measures (AMs). The Recreational AM Omnibus Amendment would implement an updated process for reviewing the effectiveness of established recreational measures for the Atlantic bluefish, Atlantic mackerel, summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass fisheries, and specify the processes that would be undertaken in future Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) actions to modify those measures, if necessary. The Amendment is wholly descriptive of process and, as such, will not implement specific measures for any of the FMPs or managed species. Instead, it updates the framework for addressing accountability in the recreational fisheries. The actual application of these measures would occur as part of future Council actions and subsequent federal actions to implement Council recommended adjustments to management measures, including bag limit, minimum fish size, recreational fishing season, and recreational catch limits. NMFS has submitted a Federal Consistency Determination that finds the proposed action consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

### **HOW TO COMMENT:**

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

### **CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

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